

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Amend the following paragraph [0001] Statement as to Federally Sponsored Research on page 1 of the application as follows:

— [0001] The U.S. Government may have certain rights in this invention pursuant to ARO-ARMY RESEARCH OFFICE Grant no. DAAG55-97-1-0254 and additionally was made in the performance of work under a NASA contract, and is subject to the provisions of Public Law 96-512 (U.S.C 202) in which the Contractor has elected to retain title. ---

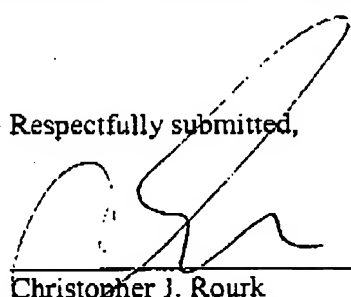
REMARKS

Pursuant to the filing of the above-referenced non-provisional patent application and Preliminary Amendment, the Examiner is invited to contact the Attorney for the Applicants at the telephone number provided below if further explanation of the Applicants' position would help to advance the prosecution of the application.

The specification has been amended to refer to the additional Federal Funding provided by NASA.

No additional fee is believed to be due with this preliminary amendment. If any required fee has been overlooked, the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency or to credit any fee overpayment relating to this matter to Deposit Account No. 01-0657.

Respectfully submitted,


Christopher J. Rourke
Registration No. 39,348

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AKIN, GUMP, STRAUSS, HAUER & FELD, L.L.P.
P.O. Box 688
Dallas, Texas 75313-0688
(214) 969-4669